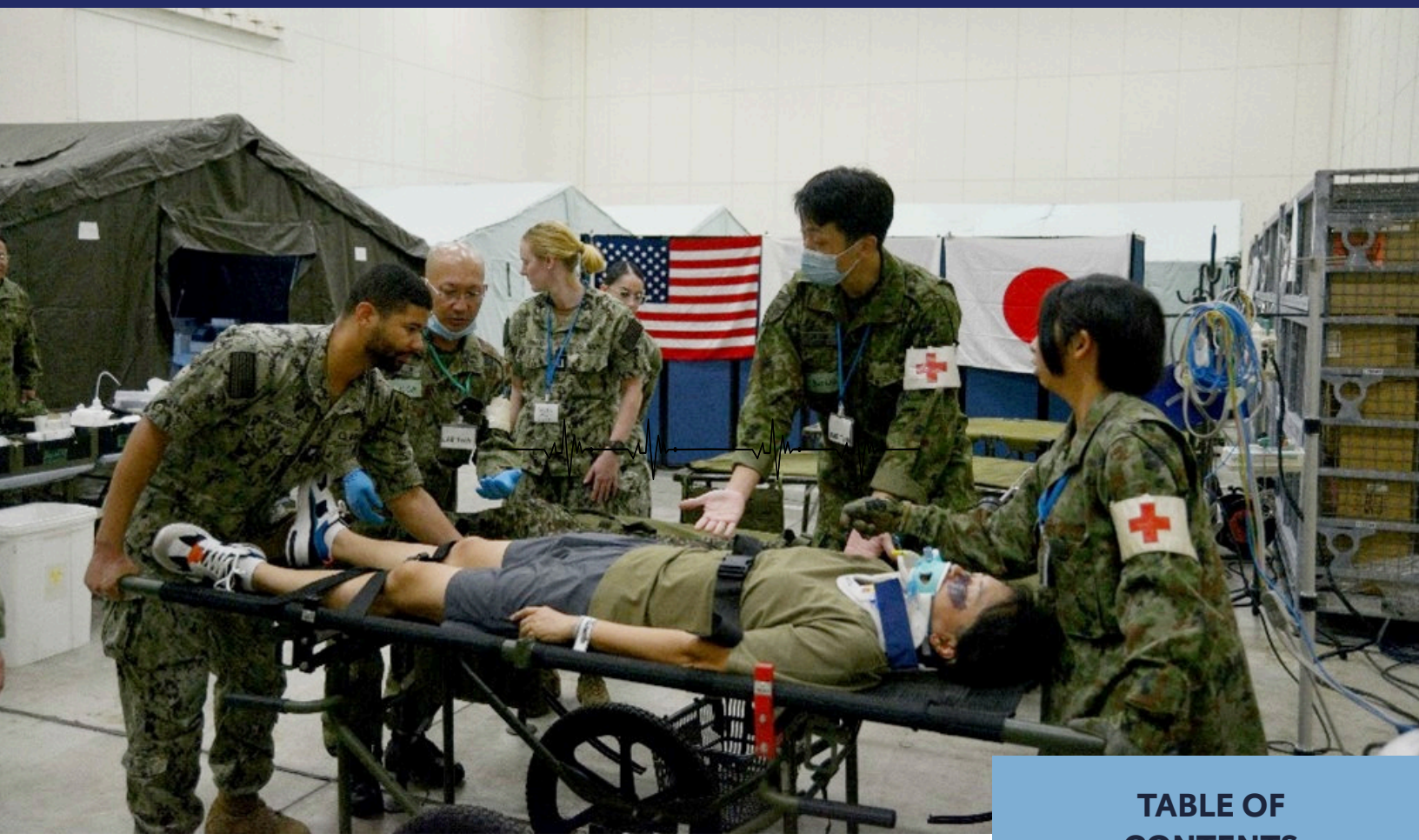
DEFENSE HEALTH NETWORK PACIFIC RIM

NAVAL MEDICAL FORCES PACIFIC

PACIFIC PULSE



U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa and Expeditionary Medical Facility Bravo Are Rendering Assistance

OKINAWA, Japan (Oct. 29, 2024) – Sailors assigned to Expeditionary Medical Facility 150 Bravo alongside service members from Japan Self-Defense Forces inspect a patient during a mass casualty drill on Camp Foster, Japan, Oct. 29,2024. Navy Medicine was one of the key lines of effort for the Keen Sword 25 Exercise. Keen Sword is the latest in a series of joint-bilateral field training exercises designed to increase combat readiness and interoperability of JSDF and U.S. forces. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Trey Fowler)

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A MESSAGE FROM REAR ADM. VALDES

Dear Team,

As we continue to work together to defend our nation, innovate and modernize our healthcare systems, and take care of our people, I am proud to highlight some of the outstanding achievements and initiatives across our medical treatment facilities in the Pacific.

I'd like to start by recognizing the Support Operations team from DHN Pacific Rim for their participation in U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's medical logistics tabletop exercise in Hawaii. This evolution aimed to improve medical support plans for competition, crisis, and conflict scenarios, and our team's involvement demonstrates our commitment to supporting our combatant commands.

I'm also pleased to announce that Naval Medical Center San Diego received an "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for Fall 2024, showcasing their continued commitment to safe, high-quality care and transparency. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of their team.

Our hospitals, clinics, and commands have been actively engaged in various initiatives to enhance their expertise and improve care for our beneficiaries. For example, USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa and EMF 150-Bravo led a mass casualty training exercise during Keen Sword 2025, demonstrating their ability to respond to complex scenarios. And, several of their nurses were recently recognized with DAISY Awards for exceptional care and teamwork. Meanwhile, NHC/NMRTC Lemoore expanded access to eye exams and glasses for dependents, enhancing timely access to care for our beneficiaries.

(Continued on p. 3)

Rear. Adm. Guido Valdes

DHA PRIORITIES:

- Enabling combat support to the joint force in competition, crisis, or conflict
- Building a modernized, integrated, and resilient health delivery system
- Dedicated and inspired teams of professionals driving military health's next evolution

A MESSAGE FROM REAR ADM. VALDES

Leadership at our MTFs and NMRTCs has also been actively involved in ensuring accountability, from updating fiscal year work breakdown structures at Lemoore to San Diego hosting a strategic offsite meeting to discuss future opportunities and challenges.

As we continue to succeed through teamwork, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of our staff who have gone above and beyond to support our allies and partners. This includes the team from NH/NMRTC Bremerton who participated in Keen Sword 2025 in Okinawa, working with Expeditionary Medical Force personnel and Japanese Self-Defense Force partners. USNH/USNMRTC Guam also played a key role in supporting Keen Sword exercises in Japan and San Diego.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to our staff who have demonstrated exceptional care and compassion, including those from Bremerton who supported VAQ-130 at Whidbey Island after a military aviation accident, and those from San Diego who participated in the Wounded Warrior Care Event.

Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our mission. I am proud to lead such a talented and compassionate team.

Respectfully,
RDML Guido Valdes, MC, USN
Commander, Naval Medical Forces Pacific
Director, Defense Health Network Pacific Rim

Command Master Chief Adolfo Gonzalez, NMC/NMRTC San Diego senior enlisted leader, speaks to the command's leadership team during an executive planning conference at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Officer's Club. (DVIDS)

Surgeon General's Lines of Efforts:

LOE 1. Deliver Expeditionary Medicine Systems (EXMEDS)

LOE 2. Increase Sailor and Marine Deployability

LOE 3. Provide Quality Healthcare and Patient Safety Across the Naval Force

LOE 4. Recruit and Retain Navy Medicine Shipmates

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DHN Pacific Rim

Members of our Support Operations team participated in INDOPACOM's medical logistics tabletop exercise Nov. 4-8 at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. The exercise aimed to help the military medical personnel and stakeholders better understand challenges and improve medical support plans for competition, crisis, and conflict scenarios. Participants focused on learning service requirements, the medical supply chain, and patient movement processes. Additionally, they validated medical contingency plans and familiarized themselves with the requirements and functions of the Joint Theater Distribution Center for medical logistics.

Medical care during transfer to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam as part of a medical evacuation mission. (DVIDS)

Brig. Gen. Bill. A. Soliz delivers remarks May 11, 2024, during his promotion ceremony at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. (DVIDS)

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

On Oct. 21, a staff delegation from Senator Patty Murray's office, visited the hospital. They discussed several topics, including women's health services, urgent care services, the Exceptional Family Member Program, and mental health care access to include wait times and referral options both on and off base. No follow-up actions were required from the visit.

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

DHN Indo-Pacific Director and Commanding General, Medical Readiness Command Pacific Brig. Gen. Bill Soliz, visited Nov. 14. The primary topic of discussion was the current status of medical resources and the need to plan for projected growth.

DIRECTOR'S ASSESSMENT HIGHLIGHTS

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

Leadership and staff from the hospital engaged with personnel from the Republic of Korea Nov. 12 and 15. Head of the Korean Consulate Chun Young Kim toured the hospital Nov. 12. On Nov. 15, the hospital hosted 96 Korean nursing students for a tour and skills stations, focusing on airway management, tourniquet application, and basic life support. MTF Director Capt. Joel Schofer attended a reception aboard the Republic of Korea Ship *ROKS Marado*, also Nov. 15.

USNH Guam hosted Armed Forces Nursing Cadets from the Republic of Korea (ROK) for a day and focused on hands-on learning and professional development. (Facebook)

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

Naval Medical Center San Diego announced they received an "A" Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade for Fall 2024, demonstrating NMCSD's continued commitment to safe, high-quality care and transparency.

Naval Hospital Bremerton (Courtesy of NH/NMRTC Bremerton Public Affairs)

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

Nov. 3-9, an active duty psychiatrist supported the Joint Interoperability Test Command by consulting on behavioral health care for a new medical informatics system. This event, held at the Medical Enterprise Innovation Center in Chantilly, VA, focused on improving health care delivery. The psychiatrist's feedback was integrated into the system's development.

DEFEND THE NATION

Innovate and Modernize

USNH/NMRTC Okinawa

On Nov. 8, the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) recognized USNHO as a Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety for Smoke Evacuation, highlighting their commitment to patient and workplace safety.

The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses Recognizes USNH Okinawa with the Go ClearTM Award as a Center of Excellence in Surgical Safety: Smoke Evacuation! (Facebook)

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

On Oct. 28, after review of healthcare optimization data and in response to local access to care limitations, the clinic's optometry department expanded access to include dependents for eye exams and glasses prescriptions, enhancing timely care for beneficiaries.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

Physical therapists led a training session for hospital corpsman physical therapy technicians on managing low back pain Oct. 17. The session aimed to enhance their expertise and improve group classes for active duty personnel.

Physical therapy training session at USNH Okinawa.(Courtesy of USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa)

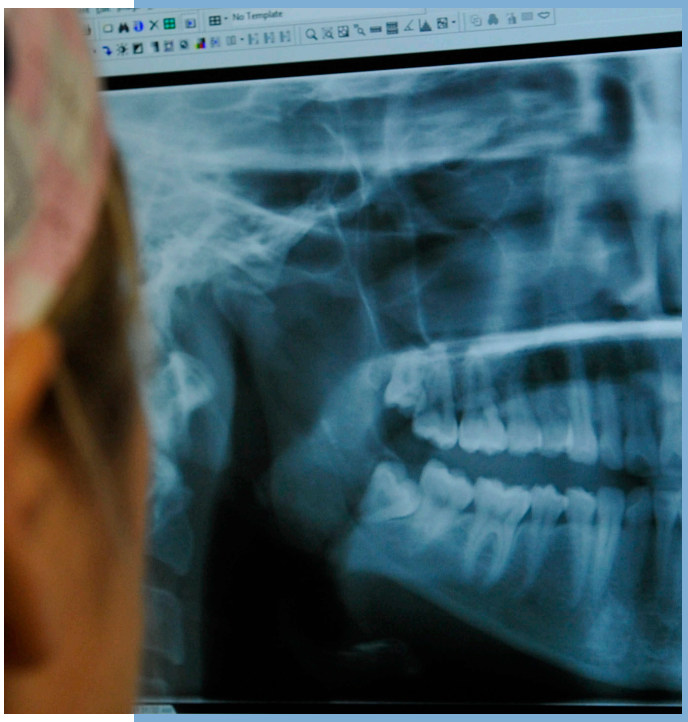
On Nov. 16, USNHO nurses were recognized for DAISY Awards. RN Ashlea Blevins (BMC Bush) received the Individual Award for exceptional care, notably aiding a pregnant patient. RN Cecily Ridgway (Orthopedic Clinic) was the Nurse Leader Awardee for management excellence. And the Emergency Department received the Team Award for demonstrating outstanding compassion and teamwork.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

Lt. Samuel Raffaelli had an article published in the *Journal of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine, Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology* (Vol. 138, Issue 6, pp. E107-E112, December 2024). His work, "Evaluation of Postoperative Peri-Implant Reactive Tissues Following Implant Supported Prosthetic Rehabilitation in Fibula Free Flaps," was a collaboration with the Maxillofacial Oncology and Reconstructive Surgery Department at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas, where NMC Portsmouth and San Diego OMFS residents complete six-month rotations.



An oral maxillofacial surgeon reviews a patient's x-ray before surgery. (DVIDS)

NHB Immunizations. (DVIDS)

Capt. Karla Lepore, director / commanding officer at NH/NMRTC Bremerton gets her annual flu shot. (DVIDS)

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Grow Our Talent

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

On Oct. 24, Lt. David Tran, a dentist at NHC/NMRTC Lemoore, was selected as the dental planner for Pacific Partnership 2025. Tran will conduct pre-deployment site surveys inseven nations, recommend operational requirements, and advise on team preparation, including training and mission expectations.

Build Resilience and Readiness

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

MTF staff administered 2,051 flu shots and 228 COVID-19 vaccines during three events for staff, tenant commands, and beneficiaries. The effort showcased strong team coordination to meet readiness needs.

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Build Resilience and Readiness

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

Throughout October, Women's Health Lunch & Learn sessions were held daily using the Female Force Readiness Women's Health Toolkit. Several in-house speakers supported the presentations.

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

From Oct. 29-30, MTF leadership participated in a strategic offsite to discuss future opportunities, actions, and challenges to succeed in IRMAC expansion, patient experience, virtual health, staffing shortages, and hiring timelines.

Courtesy of Adobe Express.

Capt. Jenny Burkett, NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton director / commanding officer talks to staff participating in Operation Clean Sweep ,an initiative to assist Sailors living in the barracks clean inside and out. (Facebook)

TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE

Build Resilience and Readiness

NH/NMRTC Camp Pendleton

On Oct. 28, hospital and command leaders joined I MEF's Operation Clean Sweep, helping sailors clean barracks as part of the Barracks 360 Reset initiative to improve unaccompanied housing and readiness. The "cleaning crew" included the command triad, directors, department heads, and senior enlisted leaders.

Ensure Accountable Leadership

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

Ms. Jewell Melancon, TAD/GTCC program coordinator, swiftly updated fiscal year work breakdown structures in the enterprise business system and defense travel system. Her diligence ensured uninterrupted funding and compliance for pressing TAD requirements.

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

Oct. 15-Nov. 2, eight sailors participated in Keen Sword 25 in Okinawa, working with Expeditionary Medical Force (EMF) personnel and Japanese Self-Defense Force (JSDF) partners to maximize training in a Role 3 environment.

USNH/NMRTC Okinawa

Nov. 12, the MTF's Nurse Liaison Committee hosted Okinawa nursing students, beginning an exchange to build relationships with local healthcare providers whose facilities provide care for USNHO's beneficiaries.

Keen Sword 25. (DVIDS)

From left to right Mrs. Takayo Maeda, Cmdr. Jordan, and Sachiko Medoruma visit Himeji Castle. (DVIDS)

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

USNH/USNMRTC Okinawa

USNHO led mass casualty training Oct. 29 during Keen Sword 2025, receiving patients and supporting the EMF Bravo 150 team alongside multinational partners.

Nov. 1, MTF personnel attended the Okinawa-American Physician Society meeting and banquet to share case studies and improve relationships with host nation hospitals. There were 104 attendees, including representatives from the U.S. Consulate, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Okinawa Liaison Office, JSDF's Naha Hospital, and all major referral centers in Okinawa.

Cmdr. Angela M. Jordan and Ms. Sachiko Medoruma lectured at Himeji University School of Nursing Oct. 11 on disaster management, engaging in an intercultural nursing exchange for 80 students.

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

USNH/USNMRTC Guam

Oct. 29-Nov. 2, Lt. Klingensmith, a critical care nurse, and Lt. Mizuhara supported Keen Sword exercises in Japan and San Diego, respectively. Klingensmith embarked on a Japanese ship for seven days and also completed two training flights in Japanese aircraft.

An MOU with the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS) has been given the green light by DHA and is moving forward. The VAPIHCS Pacific Director and Chief of Staff are scheduled to visit Nov. 18.

VAPIHCS Director Dr. Adam Robinson (fourth from left) and his leadership team at the Guam Community Based Outpatient Clinic. (Facebook)

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Join Forces with Our Allies and Partners

USNH/NMRTC Yokosuka

A Nov. 9 meeting of the Japanese Fellows Annual Alumni Association was held to discuss program improvements and successes for the Fellows after leaving the program.

On Oct. 23, Capt. Steely, the surgeon for Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and his deputy visited Branch Health Clinic Sasebo to discuss fleet support, patient handoffs, medical responsibilities, and supervision for Independent Duty Corpsmen.

Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics Lt. Gen. Sklenka visited Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni where he met with Branch Health Clinic Iwakuni personnel and discussed emergency care, interoperability with host nation facilities, clinic participation in the recent Active Shield and Keen Sword exercises, and the difference between a birthing center and a hospital.

USNH Yokosuka (DVIDS)

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Build Unity Within the Department

NH/NMRTC Bremerton

NHB sent a licensed clinical social worker and a behavioral health technician to support VAQ-130 at Whidbey Island Nov. 7 after a military aviation accident near Mount Rainier killed two naval aviators.

NH/NMRTC Twentynine Palms

Ms. Haccou, registered nurse, and Ms. Marlow, a nurse practitioner, from Branch Health Clinic China Lake's Occupational Health Department set up a booth at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Health Fair Nov. 6 to provide attendees with health education and tips.

Occupational Health staff from Branch Health Clinic China Lake at a health fair. (Courtesy of NHTP)

Blood tubing hangs from a branch ands stands at the ready to treat a simulated patient during an evaluation of Navy EXMED capabilities at Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute, March 17. ERSS teams and En-route Care System teams are components of Navy's EXMED capabilities. (DVIDS)

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Build Unity Within the Department

USNH/NMRTC Guam

MTF staff provided expertise and logistical support on Nov. 11 to a forward-deployed Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System (ERSS) light team from Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command Camp Pendleton, assisting in equipment reconfiguration and personnel movement.

NHC/NMRTC Lemoore

On Nov. 11, in collaboration with NMC San Diego, NHCL X-ray technician Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Anthony Ermeri received temporary duty training at the medical center on radiation health program management to maintain compliance amidst staffing gaps at the clinic.

SUCCEED THROUGH TEAMWORK

Strengthen Partnership Across America

NMC/NMRTC San Diego

Between Nov. 1 and 11, the command's STEM team supported Naval Base San Diego's 'Meet the Fleet' open house and Fleet Week San Diego, showcasing military medicine capabilities to the community in two largely attended community relations engagements.

MTF leadership supported Navy Region Southwest's Wounded Warrior Care Event on Nov. 7, with NMCSD Public Affairs producing a multimedia piece to highlight the event on MTF and installation social media.

Above and below: Sailors from NMC/NMRTC San Diego's STEM team highlights military medicine during San Diego's Fleet Week. (Facebook)